CLAIMS:

1.   Method of coding a coded data stream, the coded data stream comprising at least one high level data packet having partitions of data (56, 62, 68) requiring different protection rates, comprising the step of:
inserting a partition detector (50) between two such partitions, in order to provide guidance
5   for coding the partitions with different protection rates (78).

2.   Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a partition detector (80).

10   3.   Method according to claim 1 or 2, where the partition detector includes a trigger 52; 58; 64) and a code rate field (54; 60; 66).

4.   Method according to claim 3, wherein the code rate field gives information regarding the code rates to be used for the two partitions.
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5.   Method according to claim 4, wherein the code rate field is a unique identifier of the transition from a first code rate to be associated with a first of the partitions to a second code rate associated with the second of the partitions.

20   6.   Method according to any of claims 1 –5, further comprising the step of generating low-level data packets including the high-level data packet as payload (86).

7.   Method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of coding the low level data packets with different code rates (R1, R2, R3) determined by the partition detector
25   (88).

8.   Method according to claim 7, wherein the partition detectors are not coded.

9.   Method according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising the step of sending the coded low-level data packets to a receiving device (90).

10.   Method according to any previous claim, wherein there are at least three partitions and a partition detector is inserted between every partition.

11.   Method of decoding a coded data stream comprising the steps of:
receiving a coded data stream including at least one low level data packet having at least two partitions (56, 62, 68) coded with different code rates (92),
extracting information from at least one partition detector (52) inserted between two partitions in the low level data packet (93), and
decoding the different partitions with different code rates (R1, R2, R3) based upon code rate information extracted from the partition detector (94).

12.   Method according to claim 11, comprising the further step of forming at least one high level data packet out of the decoded low level data packets (96).

13.   Method according to claim 12, comprising the step of removing the inserted partition detector from the data stream, (100).

14.   Method according to claim 13, comprising the further step of supplying the data stream comprising at least one high level data packet to a source decoder (102).

15.   A device for coding a coded data stream having at least one high level data packet including partitions (56, 62, 68) of data requiring different protection rates (R1, R2, R3) comprising:
a partition detector inserter (108) for inserting said partition detector between two such partitions, in order to provide guidance for coding the partitions with different protection rates.

16.   A device for decoding a coded data stream having at least two low level data packets including partitions (56, 62, 68) of data having different protection rates (R1, R2, R3) comprising:

a controller (120) for reading partition detector information (50) inserted between two such partitions, and a

decoder (118) for decoding the two partitions at two different protection rates obtained from the partition detector.

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17.   A signal format for use in transmitting a coded data stream comprising:

a first partition (56) coded with a first code rate (R1)

a partition detector (50) and

a second partition (60) coded with a second code rate (R2);

10   said partition detector indicating both the first and the second code rates.

18.   A storage medium on which a signal forma as claimed in claim 17 has been stored.